

Region Commander Safety Message #5



Force Protection and Physical Security Measures

Recently one of our schools had a "fire bomb" containing gasoline thrown at its front window (PMS office). This resulted in scorch marks around the window and on the brick face of the ROTC building. I ask that all of our programs be made aware of this incident, and that our leaders review their physical security measures to determine whether or not some local, additional protective measures are warranted, as well as reviewing their procedures for vigilance. Whether this was done by a disgruntled former cadet, or by someone or some group with a specific target and purpose in mind, it's always prudent to understand our surroundings and review our procedures. We must find a balance between protecting ourselves and our operations, while being fully integrated into the local community and campus. Local commanders must assess risks and incorporate FP measures that make sense.

Cadet Command force protection programs and measures are being revised. In the interim, the following is provided for your use as appropriate:

- Do not give cadre or cadets tasks that put them in situations that are potentially provocative, or where they may become isolated. Conduct activities as a team.
- Secure all buildings, rooms, and storage areas not in use. Conduct a physical security review of your facilities to determine if hardening is warranted (e.g., emplacing mesh screens over windows, upgrading door locks, etc).
- Be aware of personnel showing undue interest in your activities.
- Inspect the interior and exterior of buildings at the beginning and end of each workday, as well as at random intervals, for evidence of unusual activity or items.
- Address unknown personnel who have entered your area of operations to determine their purpose, and identification, if appropriate.
- Screen all mail to identify suspicious letters and parcels.
- Coordinate with local and campus police to increase frequency of spot checks of the building, rooms, storage areas, and parking lots. Periodically inspect GOVs and POVs for evidence of tampering.
- Be aware of local sentiments toward the military. Most of our programs are widely accepted and supported; the few that are not warrant increased review.
- These precautions are situation dependant. Bottom line: use appropriate discretion.


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Commanding